Contents

	Preface	*page* ix
	Acknowledgements	xi
	List of symbols	xiii
	List of codes	xiv
1	Introduction	1
2	Blindness and childhood	7
	2.1 The nature of blindness and its prevalence in childhood	7
	2.2 The basis of concept formation in the blind and the hypothesis of sensory compensation	10
	2.3 Development of blind infants	12
	2.4 Blind children's language	14
3	Methodology and introduction of subjects	21
	3.1 Criteria for subject selection	22
	3.2 The children	24
	3.3 Observation sessions and data collection	30
	3.4 Transcription techniques	33
	3.5 Coding	34
4	First words	35
	4.1 The emergence of words	35
	4.1.1 Content of early lexicons	36
	4.1.2 The meaning of early words	37
	4.1.3 Classification as a process	41
	4.2 Hypotheses about lexical development in blind children	42
	4.3 Method	43
	4.4 Results	46
	4.4.1 Composition of the children's lexicons	46
	4.4.2 Extensions	52
	4.5 Summary	61
	4.6 Discussion	62

5	First multi-word utterances	68
	5.1 Sequential use of single words	68
	5.1.1 Previous research	68
	5.1.2 Single word sequences in the present study	71
	5.2 The blind children's use of stereotypic speech	79
	5.2.1 Early re-creation of maternal speech by blind children	80
	5.2.2 Communicative use of stereotypic speech	82
	5.2.3 Comprehension of pronouns	84
	5.2.4 Discussion	86
	5.3 Expressing semantic roles	88
	5.3.1 Methodology	91
	5.3.2 Results	94
	5.3.3 Discussion	102
	5.4 Theoretical implications	106
6	Developments in the use of illocutionary force	110
	I: The coding system	110
	6.1 The fundamental insights of speech act theory in linguistics and philosophy	111
	6.2 Children's ability to convey messages	112
	6.2.1 Speech act theory and child language	112
	6.2.2 Inference, interpretation and intention	116
	6.2.3 Issues related to the emergence of communicative function	117
	6.3 The utterance analysis system	119
	6.3.1 Types of utterance and its discourse status	120
	6.3.2 Taxonomy of fundamental illocutionary acts	122
	6.4 Method of analysis	132
	II: Analysis of developments in the use of illocutionary force	134
	6.5 The emergence of utterances with some identifiable force	134
	6.6 The order of emergence of illocutionary acts	140
	6.6.1 Implicational statements	142
	6.6.2 Non-verbal acts	145
	6.6.3 Overall pattern of development	145
	6.7 Relative frequency of use for the different illocutionary acts	146
	6.8 Patterns in the use of utterance types	151
	6.9 The effect of partial vision	153
	6.10 Summary	153

7 Conclusion 155
7.1 Summary 155
7.1.1 First words 155
7.1.2 The movement toward propositional structures 157
7.1.3 Developments in the use of illocutionary force 159
7.2 Final comments 160

Appendices
1 List of items in the interview questionnaire 163
2 Sample page of transcript 166
3 Tally sheets for utterance analysis system 168
4 Frequency of illocutionary acts for each session with each subject 170

References 176
Author index 193
Subject index 195